



CMCR Pilot Project Funds Now Available!

The Center for Medical Countermeasures against Radiation at the University of Rochester announces the availability of funds to support a limited number of Pilot Projects. The objective of a proposed Pilot Project should be relevant to the research of the Center—mitigation and treatment of the effects of a nuclear or radiological event.

Pilot Project grants are available for up to **\$75,000 in direct costs** for the duration of one year; meritorious projects may qualify for a second year of funding based upon progress, productivity, and interaction with existing Center programs.

Applications from new investigators developing collaborations with existing Center Faculty are encouraged. Funds are restricted to research expenses and generally cannot be used to support travel, faculty salary, or equipment purchases. *Anyone currently receiving funding through the CMCR Program is not eligible for Pilot funding.*

Applications: The application process will be conducted using a two-tiered review system in order to streamline the review process and increase the quality and relevance of grants that are subject to a full review.

Initial Applications (DUE March 1st, 2011) are in the form of a one-page “white paper” describing the goals and objectives of the proposed project, relevance to the mission of the CMCR at the University of Rochester, and the proposed nature of interactions with Center research and Faculty. Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to discuss potential projects with appropriate investigators as part of the formulation of the application. Abstracts will be reviewed by the Pilot Project Internal Advisory Committee and those applicants selected to submit full applications will be contacted within 2 weeks.

The deadline for initial applications is March 1st, 2011

Full Applications, in the form of a 10 page NIH-type proposal, will undergo comprehensive scientific review.

Specifications for Full Application: (10 pages, 11-point font; PDF or MSWord file)

- Specific Aims
- Research Plan
- Proposed collaborations/interactions with Center Faculty

In addition, please include a basic budget, your current NIH Biosketch, supporting letters, as well as any applicable Institutional approvals (i.e., IACUC or RSRB).

Full Applications are due April 19th. Applicants will be notified by May 6th.

Final funding decisions are made by the Rochester CMCR Principal Investigator and Pilot Core Leader. Awards are subject to IACUC, IRB, safety approvals, and NIAID approval.

Background: In order to expand the medical options available to triage and treat radiation-induced injury, and thereby help minimize terrorist threat, the NIAID/NIH established the Centers for Medical Countermeasures against Radiation (CMCRs) program in September 2005.

The goal of the Pilot Project Program is to advance the research aims of the CMCR program: the development of approaches for identifying victims of accidental or intentional radiological exposures, estimating dose, and ameliorating the side effects. Specifically, our Center's approach to drug development integrates both classical and modern radiobiological hypotheses into some of the concepts proposed for Multi-Organ Dysfunction Syndrome induction. We hypothesize that the initiation and development of radiation-induced Multi-Organ Dysfunction Syndrome and radiation-induced Multi-Organ Failure involves 3 inter-connected pathways under investigation through the Projects making up the UofR-CMCR. A late consequence of accidental radiation exposure in the form of the progressive and sequential impairment(s) in critical organs and tissues has been observed following the apparent recovery from the acute injury (ARS) that, despite medical efforts, nonetheless leads to radiation-induced multi-organ failure. Importantly, these hypothetical pathways provide the rationale for the therapeutic approaches that are being tested across the tissues and organs of interest in this Center. Through the proposed integration of the findings from each of the Projects, we anticipate confirming each of these pathways as mitigation targets and identifying possible mitigating strategies and agents.

Here are our current Scientific Projects and related contact information:

PROJECT 1: *Mitigation and Modeling of Radiation Effects in Lung in the Context of Multi-Organ and Multi-Modal Injury.*

Jacob Finkelstein: 585-275-5220 or Jacob_Finkelstein@urmc.rochester.edu

Jacqueline Williams: 585-275-1687 or Jackie_Williams@urmc.rochester.edu

PROJECT 2: *Mitigation of Brain Inflammation and Cognitive Impairment after Radiation Injury.*

Kerry O'Banion: 585-275-5185 or Kerry_OBanion@urmc.rochester.edu

John Olschowka: 585-275-8238 or John_Olschowka@urmc.rochester.edu

PROJECT 3: *Mitigation of Radiation and Combined Injury to the Skin.*

Edith Lord: 585-275-5855 or Edith_Lord@urmc.rochester.edu

Julie Ryan: 585-275-7684 or Julie_Ryan@urmc.rochester.edu

PROJECT 4: *Mitigation of Bone Marrow Radiation Injury.*

James Palis: 585-275-5098 or James_Palis@urmc.rochester.edu

Laura Calvi: 585-275-2901 or Laura_Calvi@urmc.rochester.edu

For further information, please contact Dr. Jacob Finkelstein regarding specific program aims and current research projects (585-275-5220 or Jacob_Finkelstein@urmc.rochester.edu), or visit our website:

<http://radonc.urmc.rochester.edu/U19/UofR-CMCR.html>

Submit Full Applications by April 19th to:

Dr. Jacob Finkelstein
Department of Pediatrics & Neonatology
University of Rochester Medical Center
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 850
Rochester, NY 14642
jacob_finkelstein@urmc.rochester.edu

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Proposed Budget

Proposed Budget Period:

Personnel:

Name	Title	% Effort	Salary	Fringe	Total

Total Personnel: \$ _____

Supplies:

Total Supplies: \$ _____

Other:

Total Other: \$ _____

Total Pilot Project Costs: \$ _____

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